30th January 1956] [Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam]

The first infection on the leaves was noticed in the nurseries at Annavasal, Moolangudi of Mannargudi taluk. Remedial measures were immediately taken and the disease was brought under check. Intensive propaganda was immediately carried on by the Agricultural extension staff. The Collector also was requested on 26th December 1955 to give wide publicity to the existence of the disease through revenue staff. The All-India Radio was requested to announce the prevalence of the disease indicating the remedial and control measures to be adopted in their farmers programmes. The entire district of Tanjore has been declared pest-affected by the Collector at the instance of the Agricultural Department as early as 13th October 1955. The total area affected by blast in the entire Tanjore district is estimated to be 3,000 acres. Of this 60 per cent (1,800 acres) is reported to show neck infection. The area having neck infection has to be considered as completely lost.

The Agriculture Department have evolved paddy strains which are resistant to blast disease. Co25 and ADT 25 are two of the most popular blast-resistant strains which are suited to the Tanjore district. Seeds of these two strains are available in the agricultural depots. I myself saw in Tanjore yesterday that plants of Co 25 and ADT 25 were completely unaffected by this disease, while the plants of other local strains were affected. I may assure the hon. Member that the Government are doing everything that they can by way of propaganda and by adoption of measures to check the incidence of this disease.

IV.—PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION.

Sri S. S. KOLKEBAIL (Chairman of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation) : Sir, I beg to present the first report[a] of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

V.—NON-OFFICIAL RESOLUTION *RE* SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE AT OOTACAMUND.

* Sri P. T. RAJAN : Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the resolution that stands in my name—

"That this House recommends to the Government to make arrangements for holding the sittings of the Legislature in Ootacamund in April or May 1956."

There may possibly be two arguments against the acceptance of this resolution. One is on the ground of the extra cost involved which, I believe, is about fifty thousand rupees. The other is that a party which had opposed exodus to the hills once will have to go back on the stand it took if it were to accept this resolution.

I have been a regular visitor to Ootacamund ever since 1921, because Ootacamund was the summer headquarters of the Government of Madras. Almost all the Select Committees met there every

[a] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 350–375 *infra*.